

ABSTRACT

A method for relieving pressure in a vulcanized tire while still in a tire press is disclosed, wherein the bladder securement mechanism utilizes a position sensor mechanism and eliminates the need for spacers and a floating piston. A tire press
5 comprises a lower mold, an upper mold, and a bladder securement mechanism. The bladder securement mechanism has an upper clamping mechanism for securing the upper periphery of a bladder and a lower clamping mechanism for securing the lower periphery of the bladder. A center mechanism tube has a center mechanism rod positioned therein. A piston is disposed within the center mechanism tube. The
10 piston provides reciprocating motion to the center mechanism rod. A position sensor mechanism operatively associated with the bladder securement mechanism. The method comprises the steps of positioning a green tire on the bottom mold; lowering the upper clamping mechanism; inflating the bladder, thereby forming a seal between the bladder and the tire; closing the press so that the green tire is enclosed
15 within the upper and lower molds; curing the green tire; breaking the seal by moving the upper clamping mechanism downward toward the lower clamping mechanism; releasing pressure from the tire; and, dissipating the released pressure. Depending on the configuration of the tire press, the lower clamping mechanism may be moved to strip the bladder from the tire.